

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/695,944	WAKASHIRO ET AL.	
	Examiner Julio C. Gonzalez	Art Unit 2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 05/14/03.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8 and 10-15.
3. The drawings filed on 26 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William Brooks on July 21, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

- A) Cancel claims 2 and 9.
- B) In claim 3, line 2, change the number "2" into --- 1 ----.
- C) In claim 10, line 1, change the number "9" into ---- 8 ---.
- D) In claim 1, line 12 delete the word "and".
- E) In claim 1, line 15, delete ":" and insert after the word "ratio" ---- ; and a determination threshold value change prohibiting means for prohibiting the operation of the determination value changing means when the air-fuel controller changes the air-fuel ratio of the mixture from the condition leaner than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio to the condition richer than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio. ---.

F) In claim 8, line 10, delete the word “and”.

F) In claim 8, line 12, delete “.” and insert, after the phrase “air-fuel ratio”

--- ; and

prohibiting the change of the determination threshold value when the air-fuel ratio of the mixture is changed from the condition leaner than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio to the condition richer than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio. ----.

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art discloses a control system for a hybrid vehicle with a combustion engine having an electric motor, a power storage unit, an output assist determination means, an air-fuel controller for changing the air-fuel ratio. However, the prior art fails to show, in combination with the invention, supplying an air-fuel mixture to the engine, to a condition leaner or richer than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio and changing the determination threshold value depending on whether the air-fuel ratio of the mixture is leaner or richer than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio and a determination threshold value change prohibiting means for prohibiting the operation of the determination threshold value changing means when the air-fuel

controller changes the air-fuel ratio of the mixture from the condition leaner than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio to the condition richer than the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio C. Gonzalez whose telephone number is (703) 305-1563. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8AM-5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jcg

July 21, 2003



Nicholas Ponomarenko
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800